Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims:

1. (**currently amended**) A shifter mechanism comprising, in combination:

a base;

a shifter lever pivotably mounted to the base and movable along a shift path;

a detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions,

a pawl movable between a locking position wherein the pawl engages the detent profile to lock the shifter lever in one of the plurality of gear positions against movement along the shift path when an operator applies a force to the shift lever to move the shift lever along the shift path and an unlocking position wherein the pawl disengages the detent profile so that the shifter lever is movable along the shift path between the plurality of gear positions when an operator applies a force to the shift lever to move the shift lever along the shift path;

a detent lever pivotably mounted to the base and secured to the pawl so that the pawl pivots with the detent lever between the locking position and the unlocking position;

an actuator operatively coupled to the pawl to selectively move the pawl from the locking position to the unlocking position;

wherein the linear actuator is secured to the base and has a pin extendable along a linear path and extending through a slot in the detent lever to enable linear motion of the pin to pivot the detent lever relative to the base between the locking position and the unlocking position;

wherein the pawl includes a roller that engages the detent profile when the pawl is in the locking position to lock the shifter lever in one of the plurality of gear positions against movement along the shift path when an operator applies a force to the shift lever to move the shift lever along the shift path;

a secondary detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions;

wherein each of the detent profile and the secondary detent profile is secured to the shifter lever to ~~move~~ pivot relative to the base with the shifter lever as the shifter lever moves along the shift path;

an engagement head contacting the secondary detent profile to provide frictional resistance to movement of the shifter lever along the shift path; and

a spring member resiliently maintaining the engagement head in contact with the secondary detent profile as the secondary detent profile ~~moves~~ pivots relative to the base with the shifter lever as the shifter lever moves along the shift path.

2. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 1, wherein said detent profile includes a plurality of grooves.

3. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~actuator is a linear actuator having a pin extendable along~~ a linear path of the pin is perpendicular to the detent profile.

4. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said linear actuator is a solenoid.

5. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said pin is in an extended position when said actuator is energized and a retracted position when said actuator is unenergized.

6. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said pin is in an extended position when the pawl is in the unlocking position and a retracted position when the pawl is in the locking position.

7. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 1, wherein the roller is rotatably secured to a detent lever and the detent lever is pivotable to move the pawl between the locking position and the unlocking position.

8. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 7, wherein the pawl moves along an arcuate path between the locking position and the unlocking position and the actuator is a linear actuator which is operatively connected to the detent lever to pivot the detent lever along the arcuate path.

9. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim 1, wherein pivoting motion of the detent lever relative to the base moves the pawl ~~moves~~ along an arcuate path between the locking position and the unlocking position.

10. (**currently amended**) A shifter mechanism comprising, in combination:

a base;

a shifter lever pivotably mounted to the base and movable along a shift path;

a detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions,

a pawl movable between a locking position wherein the pawl engages the detent profile to lock the shifter lever in one of the plurality of gear positions against movement along the shift path when an operator applies a force to the shift lever to move the shift lever along the shift path and an unlocking position wherein the pawl disengages the detent profile so that the shifter lever is movable along the shift path between the plurality of gear positions when an operator applies a force to the shift lever to move the shift lever along the shift path;

a ~~pivotable~~ detent lever pivotably mounted to the base and carrying the pawl over an arcuate path between the locking position and the unlocking position;

a linear actuator operatively coupled to the detent lever to selectively pivot the detent lever to move the pawl over the arcuate path from the locking position to the unlocking position;

wherein the linear actuator is secured to the base and has a pin extendable along a linear path perpendicular to the detent profile and operatively coupled to the detent lever;

a secondary detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions;

wherein each of the detent profile and the secondary detent profile is secured to the shifter lever to ~~move~~ pivot relative to the base with the shifter lever as the shifter lever moves along the shift path;

an engagement head contacting the secondary detent profile to provide frictional resistance to movement of the shifter lever along the shift path; and

a spring member resiliently maintaining the engagement head in contact with the secondary detent profile as the secondary detent profile ~~moves~~ pivots relative to the base with the shifter lever as the shifter lever moves along the shift path.

11. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 10, wherein said detent profile

includes a plurality of grooves.

12. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim 10, wherein the ~~linear actuator has a~~ pin ~~extendable along a linear path~~ and the detent lever are operatively coupled together by a slot-link type connection.

13. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~12~~ 10, wherein said linear actuator is a solenoid.

14. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~12~~ 10, wherein said pin is in an extended position when said actuator is energized and a retracted position when said actuator is unenergized.

15. (**currently amended**) The shifter system according to claim ~~12~~ 10, wherein said pin is in an extended position when the pawl is in the unlocking position and a retracted position when the pawl is in the locking position.

16. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 10, wherein the pawl includes a roller that engages the detent profile when the pawl is in the locking position.

17. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 16, wherein the roller is rotatably secured to the detent lever.

18. (**previously presented**) A shifter mechanism comprising, in combination:

a shifter lever movable along a shift path;

a detent plate movable with the shifter lever along the shift path and forming a detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions,

a pawl movable between a locking position wherein the pawl engages the detent profile to lock the shifter lever in one of the plurality of gear positions and an unlocking position wherein the shifter lever is movable along the shift path between the plurality of gear positions;

an actuator operatively coupled to the pawl to selectively move the pawl;

a spring plate movable with the shifter lever along the shift path and forming a secondary detent profile;

wherein the detent plate and the spring plate are substantially parallel and spaced apart and are located on opposite lateral sides of the shifter lever;

a spring lever engaging the secondary detent profile as the shifter lever moves over the shift path to provide frictional resistance to the movement of the shifter lever; and

wherein the pawl is carried by a detent lever and the detent lever and the spring lever are spaced apart and attached to the base on opposite lateral sides of the shifter lever.

19. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 18, wherein the spring includes a leaf spring.

20. (**original**) The shifter system according to claim 18, wherein said secondary detent profile includes a plurality of grooves.